

**ab65311**

# **Cytochrome c Releasing Apoptosis Assay Kit**

## **Instructions for Use**

For the rapid, sensitive and accurate detection of  
Cytochrome c translocation from Mitochondria into  
Cytosol during Apoptosis in cells and tissues

This product is for research use only and is not intended  
for diagnostic use.

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# 1. Overview

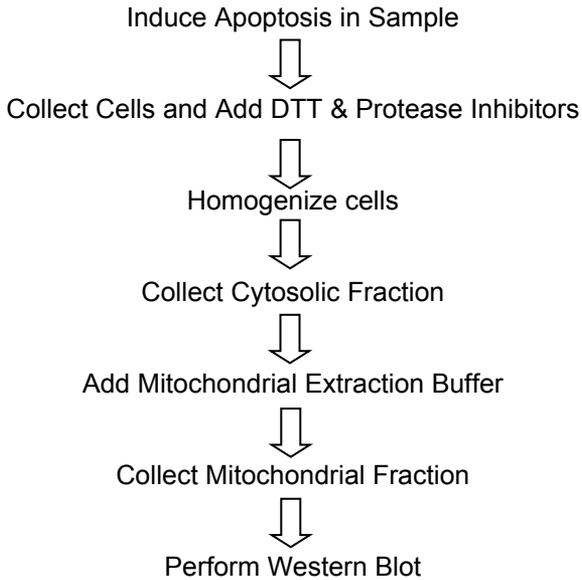
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Cytochrome c plays an important role in apoptosis. The protein is located in the space between the inner and outer mitochondrial membranes. An apoptotic stimulus triggers the release of cytochrome c from the mitochondria into cytosol where it binds to Apaf-1. The cytochrome c/Apaf-1 complex activates caspase-9, which then activates caspase-3 and other downstream caspases.

Abcam's Cytochrome c Releasing Apoptosis Assay Kit provides an effective means for detecting cytochrome c translocation from mitochondria into cytosol during apoptosis. The kit provides unique formulations of reagents to isolate a highly enriched mitochondria fraction from cytosol. The procedure is so simple and easy to perform; no ultracentrifugation is required and no toxic chemicals are involved. Cytochrome c releasing from mitochondria into cytosol is then determined by Western blotting using the cytochrome c antibody provided in the kit.

## 2. Protocol Summary

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### 3. Components and Storage

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#### A. Kit Components

Item	Quantity
Mitochondria Extraction Buffer	10 mL
5X Cytosol Extraction Buffer	20 mL
DTT (1 M)	110 $\mu$ L
500X Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (Lyophilized)	1 vial
Anti-Cytochrome c Mouse mAb	500 $\mu$ L

\* Store kit at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

- Be sure to keep all buffers on ice at all times during the experiment.
- Read the entire protocol before beginning the procedure.
- After opening the kit, store buffers at  $+4^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Store the antibody, Protease Inhibitor Cocktail, and DTT at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

PROTEASE INHIBITOR COCKTAIL: Add 250  $\mu$ L DMSO before use.

MITOCHONDRIA EXTRACTION BUFFER MIX: Before use, prepare just enough Mitochondria Extraction Buffer Mix for your experiment: Add 2  $\mu$ L Protease Inhibitor cocktail and 1  $\mu$ L DTT to 1 mL of Mitochondria Extraction Buffer.

CYTOSOL EXTRACTION BUFFER MIX: Dilute the 5X Cytosol Extraction Buffer to 1X buffer with ddH<sub>2</sub>O. Before use, prepare just enough Cytosol Extraction Buffer Mix for your experiment: Add 2  $\mu$ L Protease Inhibitor cocktail and 1  $\mu$ L DTT to 1 mL of 1X Cytosol Extraction Buffer.

## **B. Additional Materials Required**

- Microcentrifuge
- Pipettes and pipette tips
- Dounce tissue grinder
- 96 well plate
- Orbital shaker

## 4. Assay Protocol

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1. Induce apoptosis in cells by desired method. Concurrently incubate a control culture *without* induction.
2. Collect cells ( $5 \times 10^7$ ) by centrifugation at  $600 \times g$  for 5 minutes at  $4^\circ\text{C}$ .
3. Wash cells with 10 mL of ice-cold PBS. Centrifuge at  $600 \times g$  for 5 minutes at  $4^\circ\text{C}$ . Remove supernatant.
4. a) Cells: Re-suspend cells with 1ml of 1X Cytosol Extraction Buffer Mix containing DTT and Protease Inhibitors. Incubate on ice for 10 minutes.  
  
b) Frozen tissue may be suitable (although not tested) but would recommend fresh. If you must use frozen: washing the tissue with ice cold PBS and then resuspend each 10 mg of tissue in 1ml of cytosol extraction buffer.
5. Homogenize cells in an ice-cold Dounce tissue grinder. Perform the task with the grinder on ice. We recommend 30-50 passes with the grinder; however, efficient homogenization may depend on the cell type.

### Notes:

- a) To check the efficiency of homogenization, pipette 2-3  $\mu\text{L}$  of the homogenized suspension onto a coverslip and observe under a microscope. A shiny ring around the nuclei indicates

that cells are still intact. If 70-80% of the nuclei do not have the shiny ring, proceed to step 7. Otherwise, perform 10-20 additional passes using the Dounce tissue grinder.

b) Excessive homogenization should also be avoided, as it can cause damage to the mitochondrial membrane which triggers release of mitochondrial components.

6. Transfer homogenate to a 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tube, and centrifuge at 700 x g for 10 minutes at 4°C.
7. Collect supernatant into a fresh 1.5 mL tube, and centrifuge at 10,000 x g for 30 minutes at 4°C. Collect supernatant as Cytosolic Fraction.
8. Re-suspend the pellet in 100 µL Mitochondrial Extraction Buffer Mix containing DTT and protease inhibitors (as prepared in section A), vortex for 10 seconds and save as Mitochondrial Fraction.
9. Load 10 µg each of the cytosolic and mitochondrial fractions isolated from un-induced and induced cells on a 12% SDS-PAGE. Then proceed with standard Western blot procedure and probe with cytochrome c antibody (1:200 dilution is recommended).

**Note:**

The anti-Cytochrome c antibody is a mouse monoclonal antibody that reacts with denatured human, mouse, and rat cytochrome c.

For further technical questions please do not hesitate to contact us by email ([technical@abcam.com](mailto:technical@abcam.com)) or phone (select “*contact us*” on [www.abcam.com](http://www.abcam.com) for the phone number for your region).



**UK, EU and ROW**

Email:

[technical@abcam.com](mailto:technical@abcam.com)

Tel: +44 (0)1223 696000

[www.abcam.com](http://www.abcam.com)

**US, Canada and Latin America**

Email: [us.technical@abcam.com](mailto:us.technical@abcam.com)

Tel: 888-77-ABCAM (22226)

[www.abcam.com](http://www.abcam.com)

**China and Asia Pacific**

Email: [hk.technical@abcam.com](mailto:hk.technical@abcam.com)

Tel: 400 921 0189 / +86 21 2070 0500

[www.abcam.cn](http://www.abcam.cn)

**Japan**

Email: [technical@abcam.co.jp](mailto:technical@abcam.co.jp)

Tel: +81-(0)3-6231-0940

[www.abcam.co.jp](http://www.abcam.co.jp)